to the notice of the Government in July, 2005 regarding water being supplied instead of diesel in seven tankers of Indian Oil Corporation in Ladakh region of Northern Command. A Court of Inquiry was instituted by Army HQ which was completed on 30th July, 2005. Based on the findings of the Court of Inquiry, disciplinary action has been directed against two Army officers among others. Administrative action has been taken against four other officers who were involved in the incident. FIR was lodged against the civilian drivers of the Petroleum Lorries by the Police.

J&K Police has filed a chargesheet against one Brigadier level officer and one Lt. Col. level officer alongwith other on 3.3.2008 in the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Leh. The case came up for hearing before CJM, Leh on 4.4.2008. The Army has been given time to exercise option of taking over the case in terms of Section 549 Criminal Procedure Code and Army Act Section 125.

Deaths on INS Jalashwa

3895. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an officer and five cadets were killed on board INS Jalashwa last month due to leakage of toxic hydrogen sulphide from sewage pipes;

(b) whether this warship was bought from US without physical assessment and technical evaluation apart from the fact that this 37 year old ship has already outlives its service span; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) On the 1st February, 2008, when the Indian Navy ship, INS Jalashwa, was at sea, one officer and five sailors of the Indian Navy, who were aboard the ship, died after inhalation of toxic gas, which, apparently, leaked accidentally.

(b) and (c) The Indian Navy acquired INS Jalashwa (ex-USS Trenton) after a Joint Visual Inspection of the ship. The ship was 36 years old, but the Indian Navy assessed her residual life to be above 10 years.

Resolution of differences over purchase of Gorshkov

3896. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has resolved the differences with Russia over the purchase of the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov during the visit of Russian PM Viktor Zubkov to India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other issues that were discussed with the visiting dignitary?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Russian side has submitted a revised Master Schede indicating a delay in the project and an increase in price for repair and re-equipping of ex-Admiral Gorshkov. The process of examination of the scope and necessity for additional work projected by Russian side has been initiated. The Prime Minister of Russian Federation, Mr. Viktor Zubkov visited India on 12-13, February

2008. During the meetings, discussions were held on bilateral relations in the fields of trade and economy, energy, defence, science & technology and culture. Regional and international issues of mutual interest, were also discussed.

Production of AJTs in the country

3897. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) Government has received so far recently from abroad;

(b) the total number of AJTs likely to be received from abroad in the near future from various sources;

(c) whether Government is also considering a proposal to start its production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A contract was signed by the Government with M/s BAE Systems UK for procurement of 66 HAWK Advanced Jet Trainer (AJTs) aircraft for Indian Air Force. Out of these, 24 aircraft are to be induced through direct supply from abroad and 42 are to be manufactured by M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) under transfer of technology. So far 10 aircraft have been received from M/s BAE Systems UK. All 42 aircraft to be manufactured by HAL are to be supplied by 2010-2011.

IAF aircraft crashes

†3898. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Air Force aircrafts crashed in the country during the last five years;

(b) the reasons behind these air crashes;

(c) the number of pilots who have lost their lives in the air crashes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 61 Indian Air Force's (IAF) aircraft have crashed during the last five years (financial years 2003-2004 to 2007-2008).

(b) The main reasons behind these crashes were Human Error and Technical Defects.

(c) A total number of 30 pilots have lost their lives in the air crashes during the said period.

(d) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.